

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Claims 1-14 are amended. Claims 5-8 have been placed into independent form and claims 11-14 have been amended to depend from these claims, respectively. Claim 15 has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner asserts that the IDS filed on September 27, 2004 lacked copies of certain foreign and non-patent literature references. Each of the references was listed on USPTO form 1442. Applicant also forwarded the International Search Report and identified the art cited in the International Search Report, but did not include copies, as these should have been sent by the IB. Applicant is surprised that the Examiner would not have considered references sent by the international bureau, especially since they were identified as relevant. Nonetheless, Applicant is separately submitting a new IDS with copies of the documents.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection should be traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts that the claims contain “open ended clauses, and that such clauses render the claims indefinite. Examples from claims 1 and 2 include the phrase “frame capable of supporting” and “cable connecting bushing can be mounted.” The Examiner has not given patentable weight to these limitations because they are optional. These rejections are overcome by the present amendment to the claims.

In addition, the Examiner has noted the existence of missing antecedent bases in claims 2, 6-8, 10 and 11-14. These have been corrected by amendment of the claims.

Finally, upon review of the claims and specification, Applicant noted certain mistranslations that require change.

Specifically, the term "vacuum valve," which was a mistranslation, has been changed to -vacuum switch tube-. This term would be well known to one skilled in the art as being a

proper term. The term also has been changed in the paragraphs in the specification related to the summary of the invention and industrial applicability. No new matter is added.

Also, "between their movable rods," which appeared because of mistranslation, has been changed. As is clearly seen from the Figures, what is electrically connected together are the disconnecter and the movable rod of the vacuum switch. The term also has been changed in the paragraphs in the specification related to the summary of the invention and industrial applicability. No new matter is added.

The term "frame capable of supporting" has been changed in the claims to --frame for selectively supporting--. The frame supports the interrupter in one application and does not support the interrupter when it is not provided in another application. The frame is arranged to support the interrupter when it is needed to do so, but it does not always have to support the interrupter. The term also has been changed in the paragraphs in the specification related to the summary of the invention and industrial applicability. No new matter is added.

Claim Objections

Claims 10-14 are objectionable because they use the article "a" rather than "the." Applicant has amended these claims to remove this basis for objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Quenin et al (EP 0, 924 827). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As to claims 1 and 2, the Examiner asserts that Quenin et al illustrates in Fig. 7 a gas insulated switch gear within a tank 54 that is hermetically filled with an insulating gas and has at least one switchgear module in which a disconnecter 18 with a grounding switch 24 and an electrically insulating frame 56, 58. The Examiner asserts that the frame has a member supporting a vacuum valve 14 and an interrupter 27 in a vertically stacked arrangement. Finally, the Examiner asserts that the disconnecter 18 and vacuum switch (valve) 14 are connected (by 26) between their moveable rods 26 (24), 30.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over Quenin et al because the cited disconnecter (isolator) 18 is at least partly supported (see pin 32 on 27) by the operating mechanism 27 of the vacuum

switch 14. Such support cannot be provided when there is no vacuum switch. Also, the electrical connection between the disconnecter 18 and the vacuum switch 14 is established by the fixed contact 40 of the vacuum switch 14 connected to the disconnecter 18 via the links 24 and 26.

In the present invention as defined by claim 1, the disconnecter 10b is supported only by the insulating frame 17, and the vacuum switch tube 6 is mounted to the insulating frame 17 only when it is needed according to the application. Further, the movable operating rod of the vacuum switch tube 6 is connected to the disconnecter via the flexible conductor.

These features of the invention allow the selected, necessary electric equipment to be selectively contained within the tank to make modules. Thus, the invention claimed in claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2

Claim 2 would be patentable for reasons given for parent claim 1.

Claims 3 and 4

With respect to claims 3 and 4, the Examiner asserts that Quenin et al illustrates in Fig. 7 a plurality of gas insulated switch gear modules within a tank 54 that is hermetically filled with an insulating gas. The Examiner asserts that the upper module accommodates a disconnecter 18, switches and a vacuum switch 14, and the bottom module accommodates components 20, 50 and 48, connected to each other by a spacer 56, 58.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that all of the figures in Quenin et al illustrate only a single module. In Figs. 5 to 7 of the cited publication, the vacuum switch 14 and the disconnecter 18 are contained in the single tank 54, and the section containing the fuse 28 under the tank 54 does not seem to be a tank because there is no disclosure as to the seal structure between the well 50 with a plug 52 and the all of this section. Clearly, there are no illustrations or teachings of plural stacked modules. Thus, the insulators 56, 58 are for separating a fuse structure from the switch module and not for separating two similar switching modules.

For purposes of further clarity, Applicants have amended the claims to state that the hermetic seal is between “adjacent tanks,” thereby supporting this basis for distinction.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Quenin et al (EP 0, 924 827) in view of Tsurza et al (6,515,247). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

As to claims 9 and 10, the Examiner asserts that Quenin et al illustrates all of the claim limitations, but for the lightning arrester. The Examiner asserts that Tsurza et al discloses in Fig. 1 a gas insulated switch gear within a lightning arrester 32.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable on the basis of the arguments and amendments made with respect to the parent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8 and 11-14 appear to be considered allowable, presumably if the basis for objection and rejection are removed. On the basis of Applicants amendments to claims 5-8 to place them into independent form, and the amendments to claims 11-14 to make them dependent from claims 5-8, respectively, Applicants submit that these claims now should be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/509,189

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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